

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Withdrawn Claims

Withdrawn claims 22-27 have been cancelled, the Applicants reserving the right to present one or more of the withdrawn and cancelled claims in a divisional application.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failure to point out and distinctly claim subject matter which the Applicants regard as their invention. The sole ground of rejection is based on the Examiner's contention that the word "optionally" renders the rejected claims vague and indefinite.

Although it is contended that claims which define the optional presence of a component satisfy 35 U.S.C. 112, the claims have nonetheless been amended to delete from them the term "optionally" and to claim the presence of the oxidizer and/or fuel components positively in dependent claims. In addition, claim 8 has been amended to specify the range of content of pulverulent fuel as disclosed in paragraph [0007] of the application as filed, and as formerly presented in claim 7. Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to standardize the claim language by using the term "sheath" instead of "sleeve". Both terms are used interchangeably in the specification. Claim 14 has been amended to conform to the disclosure of paragraph [0006] as originally filed.

New claims have been added in order to recapture claim coverage lost by deletion of the phrases defining the optional presence of the fuel and oxidizer materials.

* * *


In view of the foregoing amendment, which is believed to fully respond to the stated grounds of rejection, it is respectfully submitted that each of the pending claims as

Appl. No. 10/553,932
Amdt. dated July 22, 2011
Reply to Office Action of May 13, 2011

amended herein is now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

CANTOR COLBURN LLP
Applicants' Attorneys

By: 
Victor E. Libert
Reg. No. 24,224

Cantor Colburn LLP
20 Church Street
22nd Floor
Hartford, CT 06103-3207
Telephone: (860) 286-2929
Facsimile: (860) 286-0115
Customer No. 23413

Date: July 22, 2011